

K-204

Fairy Meadow Site or Willowdale  
Near Chestertown  
c. 1770

In the first decade of the 19th century, Dr. Peregrine Wroth had completed his studies at Washington College. In his diary he describes his activities which followed: "... soon after entered as a student of Medicine in the office of our Family Physician, Dr. Edward Worrell, two miles from Chestertown."<sup>1</sup> The office was located on the Worrell farm known as Fairy Meadow which adjoined Hopewell Corner.

By the time Dr. Wroth began working on the farm, the house had seen many years of service, having been built around the time of the Revolution. The house was a large, two-and-a-half story, frame structure, five bays long and two deep. Its plan consisted of three rooms: a hall or living room into which the central door opened and which had an enclosed stair in its northwest corner adjacent the chimney, a parlor and a stairhall, the last of which extended along the north wall to a second enclosed stair. From a photograph taken in 1980, the roof of the house appears to have had a catslide addition under which there would have been access to the mid-19th century kitchen wing. This plan (with the exception of the stairhall) is consistent with many houses of Kent built in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

From another entry in Dr. Wroth's "Reminiscences," the configuration of the house seems to fit. "The office stood in such a position with respect to her (Mrs. Worrell's) sitting room that I could be plainly seen at the back window. It was my duty to act as the apothecary and make up

all the medicines which the Doctor prescribed for the Patients. I kept my Pitcher and wash Basin near the back window of the office and took care to wash my hands after putting up medicines."<sup>2</sup>

In 1804, Dr. Worrell died and so Dr. Wroth's apprenticeship and association with Fairy Meadow was cut short. The Worrell family continued to own the farm through 1881. When it was finally sold out of the family that year, the family burial ground was reserved for their sole use.<sup>3</sup>

It is most likely that the house was remodeled and the kitchen enlarged under the ownership of W. H. P. Worrell, the last Worrell owner. These alterations included a few elements of Italianate design.

From 1881, the farm was owned by various members of the Westcott, Price, Colescott and Crew families. In the 1940's another remodeling altered the plan of the main house to one with a central hall. It was demolished in the late 1980's for a new house which was constructed near the old site.

1. Wroth, Peregrine, "Reminiscences" (manuscript located at Washington College).
2. Ibid.
3. Land Records, Lib. JFG 1, fol. 40; Lib. SB 1, fol. 549, 551.

*WILLOWDALE*  
*Chestertown, Maryland*  
*(18th)*

*Willowdale gets its name from its siting on the edge of a bluff overlooking a creek once shaded by large willow trees. The building is a large two-and-one-half story frame dwelling probably constructed in the late 18th century but modified in the middle of both the 19th and 20th centuries. The unusually bold bracketed cornice dates from the Victorian remodeling. Originally the house had an unusual floor plan with corner stairs and hallways placed on the north side of the building, a variation of the common hall-and-parlour plan.*

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**HISTORIC *WILLOWDALE*

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

*West side Worton Road, 1/8 mile north  
of Hopewell Corner**First*

CITY, TOWN

*Chestertown*

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
*Kent*

STATE

*Maryland 21620*

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

*Millard F. Reed, Jr.*Telephone #: *778-1123*

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

*Chestertown*

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

*Maryland 21620***5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. *Kent County Court House*Liber #: *E H P 56*Folio #: *453*

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

*Chestertown, Maryland 21620*

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

*Maryland Historical Trust, Survey of Kent County*

DATE

*1968*☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS*Maryland Historical Trust, The Shaw House, 21 State Circle*

CITY, TOWN

*Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

K-204

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

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*Willowdale appears to date from the late eighteenth century. It has a mid-Victorian wing and exterior detailing, and interior alterations which date from the 20th century. The building is remarkable for its siting on the top of a hill which slopes abruptly down to a small stream beyond which lie open farmlands.*

*The early portion of the house is an unusually large, two-and-one-half story frame building with a gable roof and exposed, English bond brick chimney backs on both gables. The building is five bays in length and three bays deep. Architectural evidence shows that it had a modified hall and parlour plan although the corner stairs are now removed. There is a full basement with windows in each bay and an bulkhead entrance in the east gable.*

*Willowdale has early 12/8 sash on some first floor windows and several 8/8 sash on the second floor. Victorian 2/2 sash were used as replacements of the early sash on the front facade of the building. Four over four sash windows on the second floor level in both gables date from the early period of the building. There are also square 2/2 sash in the attic gables. Although window openings appear to be their original size and location, trim, sills, and arched window heads are later additions which conceal the original window frames.*

*The main entry to the house is in the central bay of the south facade. The door, frame, transom lights and side lights date from the Victorian alterations to the house.*

*According to a former owner, the building originally had an additional entry door in the north facade opposite the present main entrance.*

*The mid-Victorian kitchen ell at Willowdale is offset several feet so that it projects beyond the west gable. A one story porch with a shed*

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-204

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES *18th century building with* BUILDER/ARCHITECT  
*19th & 20th century alterations*

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Willowdale is an eighteenth century farmhouse which is significant because of its unusual hall and parlour floor plan. As noted above, this plan makes the building unusually deep. The building is frame, a construction which on the Eastern Shore was usually reserved for much smaller buildings.*

*Although the building was altered in the Victorian period and recently it is an interesting example of an early dwelling.*

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-204

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

*Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant*

ORGANIZATION

*Kent County Planning Commission*

DATE

*778-4600 ext. 67*

STREET &amp; NUMBER

*Court House*

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

*Chestertown, Maryland 21620*

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

roof supported on square columns fits in between the wing and the main house. The flat metal hipped roof of the kitchen ell, and its detailing would set its construction date at about 1875-1890. The wing is four bays in length, three bays wide, and two stories in height. Windows are regularly spaced and have 6/6 sash set in simple, narrow frames. Like the windows of the main house, louvered exterior shutters are used at each window.

Examination of the attic indicates that the dormers are a later addition. They have shallow gable roofs, finished with a cornice and return and flat pilasters.

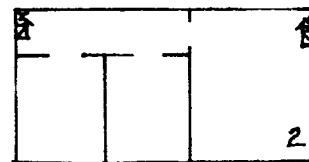
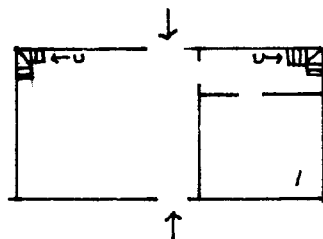
Another significant change in the building is its unusual front cornice---console-shaped modillion blocks which measure about 8" across and are spaced approximately two feet on center. They are set between a plain frieze and a box cornice with a cyma recta crown mold. Barely visible under the siding is a wide wooden pilaster at each corner of the main house.

On the interior of the building, detail from each major construction period has survived. Three of the four 18th century mantles remain in place. A mantle in the west room on the first floor has a rectangular opening with a quarter-round surround and a simple mantle shelf supported visually by two plain rectangular frieze blocks. There is a plaster panel above the mantle. Fireplace openings in the eastern and western rooms on the second floor also have rectangular openings with quarterround surrounds.

Baseboards and chairrails remain in most locations of the old house. The baseboards are  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " high with a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " upper head. Chairrails are of the two-part type, the upper board having a fillet and ogee finished edge and the lower board being finished with a bead. On the second floor there is a strange projection at the junction of the wall and floor that measures  $6\frac{1}{2}$ "  $\pm$  high and 3" - 4" deep and is covered with beaded boards. It appears to be a beam or plate but its function is not known. Old window trim is a quarterround.

The original corner stairs were removed in the 1940's and replaced by a simple Federal-design single run stair located in the center of the building. Framing members indicating corner stairs in the north east and north west corners of the old main house survive in the cellar.

The floor plan of the old portion of the building is now altered. Diagrammatically the original floor plan was as shown below.





*This modified hall and parlour plan is unusual in this area although there is a similiarity to the Urieville Miller's House (K-291) and Massey Farm (K-380) in the use of hallways on the north side of the building. Typically hall and parlour houses have stairs on opposite corners and are only one room deep.*

*The Victorian addition to Willowdale has two rooms per floor with back-to-back central fireplaces to provide heat to each room. Mantles are very simple; Greek Revival in design, they have plain friezes and pilasters beneath unmolded mantle shelves. Doors have four panels with ogee and bevel panel moldings. Window and door trim is made up of a fillet-ogee and bevel-fillet-fillet and is about 7" in width.*

*In the 1940's, the house was renovated by its owners. At this time the stairs were changed, the second floor plan was altered and modern mechanical and plumbing systems were added.*

*Buildings on Willowdale Farm include a large gambrel-roofed dairy barn which resembles those constructed on Kinnard Point in the 1930's and 1940's.*

Form 10-445  
(5/62)

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Kent TOWN Chestertown VICINITY Hopewell STREET NO. Rt. 29 1/2, 1st lane west  ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE dwelling PRESENT OWNER Marion Crew PRESENT USE dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION frame NO. OF STORIES 2 1/2	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY K - 204
	2. NAME Willowdale  DATE OR PERIOD 18th century STYLE colonial ARCHITECT BUILDER
	3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION  <p>Willowdale is apparently an 18th century structure with a few 19th century details. It is a large 2 1/2 story frame dwelling, five bays long and two bays deep with a large flat roof wing to the rear(west). The walls are covered with asbestos shingles and the center door appears to be a 19th century feature with transom and sidelights. <del>the</del> windows have 12/8 sash on first story and 8/8 sash on second story, both with louvered shutters. There are three dormers on the east side of the steep "A" roof which appear to be 19th century. The cornice has large shaped modillions which also appear to date from the 19th century. A brick chimney is located in both gables with fireplace back exposed to the second floor level. The house sits on a high rise overlooking a ravine (or dale) which is planted with willow trees.</p> <p>The present occupant says there is a date in the basement brickwork.</p>	OPEN TO PUBLIC no
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered no Interior Exterior poor	



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)  8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.	7. PHOTOGRAPH  9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Michael Bourne  DATE OF RECORD Sept. 17, 1968
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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

Name Willow Dale MHT# K-204  
 Location Kent Hopewell Corner  
 COUNTY town

address or road#

First owner of record \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Present owner Crew \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Address Chester town -

Parcel or Deed # \_\_\_\_\_

Original use dwelling

Present use dwelling

Md. Map Coordinates \_\_\_\_\_

Long. & Lat. reading \_\_\_\_\_

Style Colonial

Date(s) of construction 1700's

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Builder \_\_\_\_\_

# DESCRIPTION:

2 1/2 frame  
 NUMBER of stories type wall construction

Foundation-basement brick - basement

Wall construction- frame - covered . with shingles  
shingles

Water table, string course, other decorative work essential to walls

Chimneys brick - good caps - fireplace backs exposed  
on both ends.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

MHT# K-204

Entrance type & placement Center - w/ transom + side lights  
later than the house -

Windows 5 x 2 - 8/8 - 12/8 (2/2)

Shutters louvered

Roof type A + cat slide to catch flat <sup>rog 2 wavy</sup> covering wood  
 Cornice, eaves E - with huge shaped brackets

Dormers, cupolas 3 on E - w/ "A" roof - 4th Cent.

Porches on S.

Wings, hyphens 3 bay x 1 bay - flat roof.

Interior:  
 Stairway \_\_\_\_\_

Doors \_\_\_\_\_

Trim \_\_\_\_\_

Other notable work \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

MHT# K-204Physical condition poorEnvironment farm

## References:

MHT Color slide # \_\_\_\_\_

MHT B &amp; W # \_\_\_\_\_

Owner contacted Mrs. Cren

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

Recorder Michael BeuneDate Sept 17, 1968

Summary: Willowdale is apparently an 18<sup>th</sup> Century structure with a few 19<sup>th</sup> Century details. It is a large 2 1/2 story frame dwelling, 5 bays long and ~~2~~ deep with a large flat roof wing to the rear. The walls are covered with asbestos shingle and the center door appears to be a 19<sup>th</sup> Century feature with transom and sidelights. The windows have 1 3/8 sash on 1<sup>st</sup> story + 8/8 sash on 2<sup>nd</sup> story, both with louvered shutters. There are 3 dormers on the east side of the steep "A" roof which appears to be 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The cornice has large shaped moldings which also appear to date from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. A brick chimney is located - both gables with foundation back exposed to 3<sup>rd</sup> floor joists. It ~~the~~ sits on a <sup>high rise</sup> ~~high~~ hill out a Ravine (or dale) which has some willows planted there.

The present owners say there ~~is~~ a date in basement.

Enclosures: e.g. Map, Historical significance, sketch of floor plan, and angle of photos, etc.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

UNIT  
DEPARTMENT  
CORPS

K-204





K-204

Feb. 1980

M.L. Fritz, Photog.

J. Tyler Campbell  
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY  
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

JAN 28 1980

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

LIBRARY C.1770

K-204 Fairy Meadows Site

K-204A